

ARDA

21 June 1981

ARDA is an occasional and irregular publication of the North American Variant Banks, and comes from NAVB-West, the central archive depository for the NAVB system. It is edited and published by the Custodian of NAVB-West, Rod Walker, "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. The purpose of ARDA is to carry information on NAVB holdings and activities, to publish Diplomacy variants, and to promote the variant branch of the hobby generally. This is Pandemonium Publication #719.

ARDA is sent free of charge to various hobby people listed last issue. ARDA will trade for other Diplomacy publications so long as the editor thereof understands we don't display stunning regularity.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 5c per page (or 10c for each sheet printed on both sides) plus postage and envelope. Whole issue prices: ARDA 2, \$1.10; ARDA 3, \$.50; ARDA 4, \$.90; ARDA 5, \$.35. Please make checks payable to R. C. Walker...U.S. funds only, please.

INQUIRIES are accepted. Other Custodians have priority. All others are on a time-available basis and must (MUST) be accompanied by a business size, stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE).

GAMES may be purchased from us at 10c per sheet plus handling (50c for orders up to 20 sheets, \$1 for orders above 20 sheets). All orders will be mailed First Class. Our catalogue is in #2, with updates in ##3-5. A complete new catalogue will be in ARDA 7. Again, make checks payable to R. C. Walker, U.S. funds only.

THE MILLER NUMBER CUSTODIANSHIP

This issue has been hanging fire all year, and ARDA 6 may be considered the second step toward resolving it. A bit of background first. In June of 1979 Greg Costikyan took over as Miller Number Custodian (MNC) from Robert Sacks. Involved in that transfer was a "covenant" which set up the sort of involuted administrative scheme for which Sacks is notorious.

During 1980 the MNC's activities tended to become increasingly erratic. As of April 1981, no issue of Greg's MNC'zine, LORD OF HOSTS, had come out since November.

On 6 April 1981 I printed and distributed widely in the hobby ZIMIAMVIA #1, which outlined the problem and proposed that if nothing further were heard from Greg by 30 April, I would temporarily assume the post of MNC until a proper replacement could be found. Toward the end of April an issue of LOH did appear, partially clearing the backlog of variant games to which no MNCs had been assigned.

During late 1980 and early 1981, occasional letters have been passing between myself and Greg, discussing a plan he had proposed for revising the Miller Numbers and creating a firm link between the MNC and the NAVB, so that each would have a say in the other's choice of successor. There was also some discussion of whom Greg's own successor would be. I want to emphasize at this point that Greg and I are both agreed that I should not be MNC on a permanent basis; it is not a position I particularly want to hold, as I have enough to do within the hobby already. However, my last two letters to Greg, dated 26 April and 19 May, have gone unanswered.

When in April I suggested I would (temporarily) take over as MNC, the response to that declaration was uniformly positive (insofar as I know), with the predictable exception of Sacks. Robert would of course prefer to

have nothing happen than have his neat little bureaucratic arrangements upset in any way. A number of variant editors wrote to express gratification that things would now get off dead center; some even announced that I had taken over already.

But Greg did in part meet my original deadline, by publishing prior to 30 April. I was glad of that, not wanting the work which his continued silence would have meant. Sacks, meanwhile, read one of the premature announcements of my becoming MNC, had apoplexy, and launched into various little tirades in the hobby press. A letter from him to be published in BRUTUS BULLETIN 92 essentially states he intends to do nothing about the problem. He would, he says, have to get "notification" from John Leeder (Associate MNC) or myself, and then there would have to be "a removal hearing"...and so on and on into 1984 or so. Some of those reading this will remember the last similar problem in which Sacks was involved: the complete default of Ray Heuer as Orphan Games Project custodian. There is a recent announcement that Ray finally "resigned" the post, more than two years after a completely new independent project was set up by John Daly (and others) to do the work that Heuer had not been doing. So much for Sacks' insistence that his Byzantine procedures be followed.

The time has come, instead, to cut the Gordian Knot.

As of today, 21 June 1981, I intend to operate as Miller Number Custodian Pro Tempore. My primary responsibility will be to organize and clean up the accumulated backlog and smooth the transition to another person who will hold the post on a permanent basis. I hereby declare my intention to resign this post not later than 31 December 1981 (and I hope it is a lot earlier).

It is not my intention to usurp the functions rightfully held by another person. Of course if Greg resumes his duties prior to the time I turn this job over to another custodian, I would not insist that I have any priority in the matter. He does. I will also endeavor to consult with Greg on every step of this transitional period, including arrangements he and I have previously discussed and the choice of a successor. That person will be one of the two whose names already have come up in our correspondence. I will also consult with the (relatively inactive) Associate MNC, John Leeder, with Fred Davis, Lew Pulsipher, and other individuals concerned with variants. I would consult with Sacks, too, if I believed he would do so in a constructive manner. But his past (recent past) negative and unhelpful comments, personal vituperations, and illogical statements lead me to conclude he'd rather play dog-in-the-manger with this, just as he did with OGP.

I would also not feel comfortable with this if I believed that support for my action was not general in the variant branch of the hobby. The previous response suggests that it is, but I would like to be more certain. I am therefore enclosing with this issue a Response Form. Please, please fill it out, add any comments you'd like, and return it to me. If there is any significant degree of negative feeling about my action, I will not pursue it further and hope that the problem can be resolved in some other way.

I do want it clearly understood that no negative reflection on Greg is meant by all this. He himself has said that many, many other duties and responsibilities have such a claim on his time that he can't really do the MNC job properly any more. Hobby functionaries frequently encounter this problem. If just the lack of a new LOH since end-April were involved, that would present no difficulty. But from my point of view (and that of other who have written me about it), Greg put the last LOH into the mail and dropped out of sight (from the MNC point of view) again.

I have no doubt we will all be favored by hysterical outbursts from Robert Sacks to the effect that I can't do this, liberally larded with all of his favorite epithets for people who disagree with him ("liar" and "scoundrel" seem to be high on his list at the moment). If there were any way to

avoid this irritating and unconstructive behavior, I would certainly do so. Since it can't be avoided, the best course is to ignore it, which I intend to do. I will of course be grateful for whatever support is given me in my efforts to resolve this situation.

NEW MILLER NUMBERS

In an effort to clear up the backlog, I'll start with games which have no MNs, and for which I have some definite information. It should be understood that if Greg resumes his duties and assigns numbers in any other way, these assignments are immediately abrogated.

I. Recategorization of 1981 Numbers. It had generally been agreed between Greg and myself that a modified version of the ARDA catalogue numbers would be used as MN designators after 1 January 1981. This agreement was opposed and delayed by every means available to him by Sacks. Greg's own inactivity after mid-1980 (or slower rate of activity, rather) meant that all the details hadn't been worked out by the agreed deadline. However, that presents no big difficulty. The following numbers assigned are hereby altered to conform to Greg's ultimate intentions in the matter:

1981Aja = 1981Agf08 (Small World Dip. II-R, BUSHWACKER).
 1981Bjb = 1981Bpw02 (Machiavelli, JIHAD).
 1981Cjl = 1981Cna02 (North America 2020, JIHAD).
 1981Djm = 1981Dgp05 (Youngstown XII, no zine; carbon copy).
 1981Ejn = 1981Erm22 (Woolworth Dip., JIHAD).

II. Other 1981 Games.

1981Ffn02. SONG OF THE NIGHT. GM: Glenn Overby. Zine: JIHAD. A: Mark Larzelere, B: Dan Palter, C: David Anderson, D: Michael Crane, E: Richard Carlson, F: Debbie Osborne.

1981Ggh03. COLONIA V. GM: Bob Kluge. Zine: SWORD AND SIMITAR (in WHITE-STONIA). Austria: _____ Ditter; China: Eugene Prosniz; England: _____ Zipper; France: _____ Schuetz; Netherlands: _____ Burden; Ottoman Empire: _____ Wilson; Portugal: Fred Hyatt; Spain: _____ Mathias.

1981Hej01. JIMMU. GM: Michael Mills. Zine: EMHAIN MACHA. Aomori: Keith Mercer; Fukui: Dan Palter; Hakodate: Eric Bram; Kobe: Chuck Scott; Nagasaki: Jack Masters; Tokyo: Glenn Overby.

1981Igp09. MERCATOR III. GM: Glenn Overby. Zine: JIHAD. Argentina: John Marsden; Austria: Dan Wilson; Brazil: Tom Monaghan; China: Debbie Osborne; England: Peter McDonald; France: Steven Davies-Morris; Germany: Fred Winter; India: Tom Butcher; Italy: David Anderson; Japan: Marion Bates; Russia: Don Del Grande; Turkey: Daniel Palter.

PLEASE SEND ANY OTHER 1981 GAMESTARTS TO ME AND I WILL ASSIGN A MILLER NUMBER BY RETURN POSTCARD. PLEASE INCLUDE TYPE OF GAME, G.M., 'ZINE (& SUBZINE IF APPROPRIATE), AND COMPLETE LIST OF PLAYERS & COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS.

III. Other 1980 Games.

1980Pjo. DEADMAN. GM: Bob Arnett. Zine: VOLKERWANDERUNG (Deadman #1, "Sandy"). Austria: Eric Ozog; England, Wade Dudley; France: Al Ronderos; Germany: David Carter; Italy: Keith Mercer; Russia: David Arnott; Turkey: Tony Strickland.

1980Qjo. DEADMAN. GM: Bob Arnett. Zine: VOLKERWANDERUNG (Deadman #2, "Plaw"). Austria: George Leritte; England: Freeman Gilbert; France: Paul Goodrich; Germany: Dave Barker; Italy: Dennis Walker; Russia: John Kador; Turkey: D. S. Palter.

1980Rjo. DEADMAN. GM: Roy Henricks. Zine: VOLKERWANDERUNG (Deadman #3, "Crev"). Austria: Mark Lew; England: Nick Russon; France: Stephen Kiser; Germany: Kevin Kozlowski; Italy: Kirby Garrett; Russia: Clark Reynolds; Turkey: John Vielmann.

1980Sjb. MACHIAVELLI. GM: Roy Henricks (?). Zine: ENVOY. (1454 format) Austria: Glenn Overby; Florence: _____ McConnell; France: _____ Pelliccia; MILAN: _____ Swider; NAPLES: _____ Horn; PAPACY: _____ Goodrich; TURKEY: _____ Scott; VENICE: L _____ Boudon.

1980Tjp. VACATION DIP. GM: ?? Zine: MURD'RING MINISTERS (Subzine: BIGTIMER MAGAZINE). Austria: Al Rodriguez; England: Ron Brown; France: _____ Williams; Germany: Bob Arnett; Italy: Jack Masters; Russia: _____ Grabar; Turkey: Jim Bumpas.

NOTE: 1980Ojk. The game is not "Jupiter", but Proxy Plomacy. The initial players were: Austria: David Carter; England: Mark Larzelere; France: Kevin Turner; Germany: Paul Rauterberg; Italy: Kerry Blant; Russia: Scott Haiber; Turkey: Robert Olsen. ("Jupiter" is Linsey's local 'zine name for this section of Proxy Plomacy.)

1980 Games Still Missing: WHY ME? (2 Blind games); PLAGUE TIMES (a game I've never seen called Black Plague Dip.); ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON (a Holocaust game and a section of World War IIb); MIKE'S MAG (Machiavelli, 1513 scenario); THE SHOGUN'S SWORD (Machiavelli, unknown scenario; Delayed Stab Dip.). Any information on these games would be appreciated so that we can assign numbers. Any other 1980 games thus far missed, ditto. Missing information on games already assigned numbers above, ditto. Corrections to any misinformation in the above listings, ditto. I've done the best I can, but I'm only ~~human~~ whatever.

The last page of this issue will be printed on one side. It will contain the mailing list (as of 21 June 1981) for this issue plus the opinion reply form. This issue will go to every Editor/GM who is known to me as running and/or offering Diplomacy variants (this excludes other postally-played games which are not Diplomacy variants, such as Kingmaker, Mighty Fortress, Parlement, Nuclear Holocaust, and the like). Please complete, detach, and return that form as quickly as possible. As I have said before, if the returned forms show any significant amount of disapproval of my actions, I will disavow all that is contained in these pages and attempt resolving the situation in another way.

FUTURE MNC/NAVB RELATIONS. Greg had proposed a plan and I had agreed to it in principle. We had not actually signed his proposed actuating document, which to this point I had not received. However, in line with Greg's wishes, the plan will go into effect.

1. The MNC and the NAVB Custodian who holds the NAVB Archives (which is NAVB-West at the moment) will be required to consult in the matter of choosing a successor to either post. Each will have veto power over the choice of the other.

2. In the event that one of the two ceases to perform his function, the other will be empowered to choose his successor. (That's badly phrased. It means, if the MNC suddenly ceases to function, without naming a successor, the NAVB Archives Custodian would then name the new MNC. And vice-versa, of course.) IT IS UNDER THIS PROVISION OF OUR TENTATIVE AGREEMENT, ALREADY PROPOSED BY GREG AND AGREED TO BY ME, THAT I HAVE NAMED MYSELF MILLER NUMBER CUSTODIAN PRO TEMPORE AND WILL NAME A NEW MILLER NUMBER CUSTODIAN TO ASSUME THAT FUNCTION FROM ME NOT LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1981.

LAST PAGE

1. MAILING LIST. Thus far, this issue is going to the following 'zines and editors, known (or suspected) to be running or offering variant games. Except for John Leeder (who is Associate MNC under the current structure), I am not sending up to Canada; there was no response from there last time. I will contact the Canadian 'zines later. Nothing is going out to Europe; I have no idea whether the European variant games are now included within the MN system or not.

BUSHWACKER (Fred Davis), CRUXIBLE (Michael Crane), DIPLOMACY DIGEST (Mark Berch), DOT HAPPY (Allen Wells), THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB (Steve McLendon), DIPLOMACY WORLD (Jerry Jones), DREADNOUGHT (Vernon Schaller), EMHAIN MACHA (Michael Mills), ENVOY (Roy Henricks), HOME OFFICE (Fred Hyatt), INFIDEL (Nick Russon) ((well, that's Canada, too, isn't it?)), INVASION (Bruce Schneier), JIHAD (Glenn Overby), LIFE OF MONTY (Don Del Grande), MURD'RING MINISTERS (Ron Brown), PLAGUE TIMES (Marion Bates), POLITICIAN (Konrad &/or Uli Baumeister), REBUS SIC STANTIBUS (Drew McGee), RUNESTONE (John Leeder), ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON (Bob Sergeant), SNAFU (Ronald J. Brown) ((another Canadian, so I guess I'm including Canada after all without knowing it)), URF DURFAL (Greg Costikyan), VOICE OF DOOM (Bruce Linsey), VOLKERWANDERUNG (Bob Arnett), WHITESTONIA (John Caruso), WHY ME? (Lee Kendter), CAMELEON A BINOCULAIRE (Pierre La Breche), TEL AMIFER'S JOURNAL (Tel Amifer).

2. RESPONSE FORM. Please complete this form and mail it back to Rod Walker, "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. I would like to hear from you not later than 10 July 1981 if at all possible.

a. PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE THREE ITEMS BELOW:

- _____ 1. I agree with what you are doing.
 _____ 2. I don't agree with what you are doing.
 _____ 3. Other (specify):

b. COMMENTS (use reverse or other sheet if necessary):

c. If you have had any game finishes which have not been reported yet by the MNC, could you please attach a complete player/supply-center chart? Similarly, if you have had any new variant gamestarts not already assigned a Miller Number, please attach information (including a list of starting players and country assignments).

d. WILL YOU BE WILLING TO TRADE YOUR 'ZINE FOR ARDA, WHICH WILL CARRY MILLER NUMBER INFORMATION AND NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK INFORMATION?

_____ yes _____ no _____ maybe (specify):

_____ (NAME) _____ (ZINE) _____ (DATE)

